



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,948	08/07/2003	Gregory Don Moore	6108.73	1225
27683	7590	07/14/2005	EXAMINER	
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202			OMGBA, ESSAMA	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		3726		

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/635,948	MOORE ET AL.
	Examiner Essama Omgbala	Art Unit 3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 7,11 and 16-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 11 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 7 and 16-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The indicated allowability of claims 7, 16 and 17 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to JP'442 (JP 2001096442). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 7, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of JP'442 (JP 2001096442).

Applicant, at pages 1, 2 and 5 of the specification to be known as AAPA, discloses a method of recycling a whole rail comprising a lower portion, an upper portion and a web portion, wherein the rail is heated to a plastic state and slit in a plurality of pieces and the plurality of pieces are deformed to a generally uniform shape. Although AAPA does not disclose the rail being slit across a hole formed therein, however it is known to slit a rail across a hole formed therein in order to reduce the energy used in slitting the rail as attested by JP'442, see abstract and the computer on-line translation. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have slit the rail of AAPA across a hole formed therein, in light of the teachings of JP'442, in order to reduce the energy used in slitting

the rail. Applicant should note that any of the plurality of pieces could be called a first piece or a second piece. Applicant should note that the rail of AAPA is considered slit across the web section since it is slit to separate the web from the lower and upper portions.

4. Claims 18-20 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA.

With regards to claims 18 and 26, Applicant, at pages 1, 2 and 5 of the specification to be known as AAPA, discloses a method of recycling a whole rail comprising a lower portion, an upper portion and a web portion linking the lower and upper portions, wherein the rail is slit in a plurality of pieces and the plurality of pieces are deformed to a generally uniform shape. Although AAPA does not disclose the rail being slit generally in half to separate the rail generally into a first half and a second half, however it is within the general knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art to slit the rail in the number of pieces that would facilitate recycling. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have slit the rail of AAPA generally into a first half and a second half, as is within the general knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art. Applicant should note that the rail of AAPA is considered slit across the web section since it is slit to separate the web from the lower and upper portions.

For claim 19, see paragraphs 24 and 25 of the specification where it is admitted that reduction passes are conventional and are associated with slitting knives.

For claim 20, Applicant should note in as much as the method steps of AAPA are similar to the claimed method steps, it is obvious that the same results would be obtained, therefore it is expected that the rail halves of AAPA would be substantially seam-free after the step of deforming.

5. Claims 21-25 and 27-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of JP'442.

With regards to claims 21, 22, 27, 30, 31, 35, 36, 44 and 46, AAPA discloses a method of recycling a rail as shown above. Although AAPA does not disclose the rail being slit across a void or hole formed therein, however it is known to slit a rail across a void or hole formed therein in order to reduce the energy used in slitting the rail as attested by JP'442, see abstract and the computer on-line translation. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to have slit the rail of AAPA across a hole formed therein, in light of the teachings of JP'442, in order to reduce the energy used in slitting the rail.

For claims 23, 25, 32, 34, 37 and 43, Applicant should note that it is inherent that slitting the rail across the void or the hole would create a notch or a partial hole in each half of the rail.

For claims 24, 33 and 38, Applicant should note that following AAPA/JP'442's method would also reduce the probability of forming structurally deficient seams in the halves of the rail.

For claim 28, see paragraphs 24 and 25 of the specification where it is admitted that reduction passes are conventional and are associated with slitting knives.

Art Unit: 3726

For claim 29, Applicant should note in as much as the method steps of AAPA are similar to the claimed method steps, it is obvious that the same results would be obtained, therefore it is expected that the rail halves of AAPA would be substantially seam-free after the step of deforming.

For claim 39, Applicant should note that it is inherent that deforming the first and second halves would elongate the respective notches.

For claims 40 and 41, Applicant should note that following AAPA/JP'442's method would also reduce scrap associated with deforming the halves of the rail and increase the amount of the rail that can be recycled..

For claim 42, Applicant should note that following AAPA/JP'442's method would substantially eliminate the respective notches in the halves of the rail.

For claim 45, it is within the general knowledge to use the appropriate number of mill pass lines to recycle the rail.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 11 is allowed.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 7, 16 and 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 3726

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Essama Omgba whose telephone number is (571) 272-4532. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6:30, 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on (571) 272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Essama Omgba
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3726

eo

July 9, 2005